

NTS workers to the Special Exposure Cohort, SEC, making them eligible for automatic compensation. I immediately wrote a letter to President Bush asking for his administration to rectify this horrible wrong, and for some NTS workers, the situation was set right the next year.

In 2006, employees who had worked at NTS for at least 250 days from 1951 to 1962, or the atmospheric testing years, saw a tremendous victory. They were designated as part of a new Special Exposure Cohort, SEC. However, the sacrifices of NTS workers from the years of underground testing and their families went largely unacknowledged, until now. Thanks to the new SEC which goes into effect today, some measure of justice will be brought to these employees of NTS and their families.

Unfortunately, this new SEC will not put an end to the years of waiting for all NTS workers. Some won't be eligible for automatic compensation because their cancer isn't on the official list or because they worked less than 250 days, even if they were present for a large release of radiation. I will continue to fight to make sure each and every one of Nevada's Cold War veterans and their families get the compensation and justice they deserve for the enormous personal sacrifices they have made for their country. Still, I am very happy that today an estimated 1,365 claimants may be eligible for automatic compensation under the new SEC.

After submitting legislation to add the underground testing years to the SEC in 2006, my office began the long and complicated process of working with workers, survivors, and experts to submit an SEC petition. After much hard work, on February 5, 2007, I joined with three Nevadans in submitting an SEC petition arguing the scientific problems with the radiation dose reconstruction process that was denying so many NTS workers and their families the compensation and recognition they deserve. When the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, NIOSH, initially recommended that the petition be denied, it was the tireless work of more than a dozen individuals standing up for what is right that prevented the petition from being rejected completely. It was as a team that we persevered to gain approval for the petition and, with this approval, justice for the underground testing workers and their families.

Today's victory would not have happened without the dedicated team of NTS workers, their families, and others who fought for years to make this day possible. I would like to take a moment to thank some of these people.

First, I personally extend a heartfelt thank you to the three petitioners who devoted their time, energy, and testimony to bring this issue to the forefront. Thank you Lori Hunton, Paul Stednick, and Peter White. Lori's father, Oral Triplett worked at the Ne-

vada Test Site and passed away when she was only 16. Paul worked at the site from 1966 to 1994 as a laborer and labor foreman. Peter worked as a laborer, pipefitter, and welder from 1985 to 1989. Each of these individuals provided invaluable insight and support necessary to complete the petition process.

I also thank Navor Valdez, Gene Campbell, Mary Bess Holloway Peterson, William Cleghorn, Robert Lemons, Cooper Michael Boyd, Patricia Niemeier, and John Funk, for sharing their stories about what really happened on the ground in Nevada.

No thank you would be complete without acknowledging Richard Miller, formerly of the Government Accountability Project, without whom this petition would never have been filed.

Finally, I send my heartfelt gratitude to all those who have worked at the Nevada Test Site and their families. I especially would like to acknowledge workers who passed away while fighting for benefits and their widows, widowers, and children surviving them who took up the fight for their loved one. Nevada's Cold War heroes have made immeasurable contributions to our nation's security, and the sacrifices they have made their health and their lives make it impossible for us to ever adequately thank them.

BBG NOMINATIONS

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have my letter to Mr. MCCONNELL, dated April 28, 2010, concerning BBG nominations printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, April 28, 2009.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR MCCONNELL: I am requesting that I be consulted before the Senate enters into any unanimous consent agreements regarding Presidential nominees to the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG). On April 13, 2010 the Committee on Foreign Relations reported the following nominations to the Senate: Walter Isaacson, of Louisiana, as Chairman; Victor Ashe of Tennessee; Michael Lynton of California; Susan McCue of Virginia; Dennis Mulhaupt of California; and S. Enders Wimbush of Virginia.

Additionally, the Committee on Foreign Relations is still considering the nominations of Dana Perino of the District of Columbia, and Michael Meehan of Virginia to the Broadcasting Board of Governors. I request that I be consulted before the Senate enters into any unanimous consent agreements for these two nominations as well.

I have had longstanding concerns regarding transparency and effectiveness of our taxpayer funded international broadcasting agencies under the purview of the Broadcasting Board of Governors. In particular, I am troubled by the operations and management of Voice of America (VOA) given issues raised by the media, Inspector General, and former employees of VOA. Therefore, I have

requested to meet with all the prospective nominees to discuss these issues. The Broadcasting Board of Governors performs a vital role regarding oversight and management of our international broadcasting. As the nation faces threats from the Middle East and in fact throughout the world, transparent and effective international broadcasting agencies are critical to ensuring our international broadcasts are in fact fulfilling the America's interests in securing peace for ourselves and our allies.

Again, thank you for protecting my rights on these nominations.

Sincerely,

TOM A. COBURN, M.D.,
U.S. Senator.

IRAN AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I read with interest, and disgust, the press reports about the comments of Iranian President Ahmadinejad at the United Nations on Monday, when he attempted to defend Iran's secret nuclear program and his government's continuing defiance of the Security Council.

I could not help but contrast his words with the efforts so many other countries have been making to prevent a nuclear weapon from ending up in the hands of a terrorist, or a nuclear arms race from taking off in the Middle East or South Asia.

In the past couple of weeks, the United States and Russia—two former enemies that once came to the brink of a nuclear war and since the 1980s have slashed their nuclear arsenals—agreed to make further reductions, and President Obama has said he wants to negotiate deeper cuts in furtherance of his long-term vision of a world without nuclear weapons.

On Monday, the Pentagon disclosed publicly the number of weapons that remain in our arsenal, which would have been unthinkable a few years ago.

There are serious efforts being made to establish nuclear weapons-free zones in South America, Africa, and the Middle East.

And at the United Nations, even countries such as Russia and China, which have traditionally sided with Iran, have all but lost patience with what Secretary Clinton rightly called Iran's "history of making confusing, contradictory and inaccurate statements."

Nobody questions Iran's right to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. But the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty is, as United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has said, more important today than ever. Terrorists like the Times Square bomber could cause death and destruction on a scale we have not seen since World War II. Nuclear weapons in the hands of terrorists would have consequences for life as we know it that are almost unfathomable. And Iran has long been a state sponsor of terrorism.

President Ahmadinejad insists there is no proof that Iran is building a nuclear weapon, at the same time that he